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QUESTION OF THE COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE

Letter dated 20 January 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Comoros to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the communiqué adopted by the Council of Ministers on 18 January 1995 concerning the reaction of the Government of the Comoros to the decision of the French authorities to require Comorian inhabitants of the other three islands of the Comoros to possess a visa for entry to Mayotte.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this communiqué to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte".

(Signed) Mohamed A. DJIMBANAO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Communiqué adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Comoros on 18 January 1995

At its weekly meeting today, Wednesday, 18 January 1995, the Council of Ministers took note of the decision of the French Government to establish a regime requiring inhabitants of the other three islands of the Comoros to possess a visa for entry to Mayotte.

The Council expresses its concern and shock at this step, announced by the Prime Minister of France on 24 November 1994.

The Council of Ministers reaffirms the position of the Government of the Comoros, as expressed unambiguously, forcefully and resolutely by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation at the forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Considering that the establishment of an entry visa regime for Mayotte reflects the deliberate intention of the French authorities to separate the Comorian island of Mayotte from the geographical unit of which it is a natural part, the Government of the Comoros strongly condemns this initiative, which is inconsistent with a series of statements made by France's highest authorities, in particular, the statements of the President of the Republic, Mr. François Mitterrand, and the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, expressing the willingness to seek a negotiated settlement and to maintain the free movement of goods and persons between Mayotte and the other three islands of the Comoros.

Aware of the gravity of the situation and the consequences to which it may give rise, the Government intends to act quickly to consult all the vital forces of the nation with the aim of finding appropriate solutions, since the problem of the territorial integrity of our country concerns each and every Comorian.

In this trying situation, the Government is also seeking the support of the Federal Assembly, which will be convened in special session to consider this matter.